

## FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—Choice sausages of mule back are encircled, and one dollar a pound in Paris.

—The Shah of Persia has requested the ladies of his harem to learn the piano, and promises prizes of efficiency.

—True love's most signal triumph over poverty and age must be the recent marriage in Devonshire between a spinster of seventy-five and a bachelor of sixty-six, both in receipt of parish assistance.

—It was while staying at the late Matthew Arnold's house at Harrow, England, that Prince Thomas of Savoy, Duke of Gona, received and declined the offer of the crown of Spain.

—In Scotland recently a man was fined half a guinea for going to church on Sunday, and while one of the worshippers was bending at prayer demanding from him two days' wages alleged to be due his son.

—The famous Bo Tree under which Buddha sat and meditated until he became "enlightened" and overcame the last temptation, is said to be falling to pieces. It is believed to be the oldest tree in the world, being credited with 2,300 years.

—The people of Plymouth, England, propose to erect a granite column surmounted by a figure of Britannia, with medallions of English captains and other ornaments below, to commemorate the repulse of the Spanish armada. The cost will be \$10,000 or more.

—The barber shops of London are dingy and old foggy to the last degree. Some Americans have opened a shop in London on the luxurious American plan and are making money by the operation. The nimble Yankee is generally around where the small change rattles.

—It is said that the primrose was not Lord Beauchamp's favorite flower at all, and that the story that it was arose from the fact that the Queen sent to grace his coffin a wreath of those flowers with a card bearing the inscription, in her own handwriting: "His favorite flower." But she meant the favorite of her own husband, Prince Albert, not of Beauchamp.

—The glitter of war, if not its pride, pomp and circumstance, is fast disappearing. The German military authorities have about made up their minds that the cuirasses worn by about a dozen cavalry regiments must go. The cuirass is picturesque, but it is not bullet proof, and weighs between sixteen and seventeen pounds.

—Siberia, as a place of exile, is shortly destined to become a thing of the past. The Russian Government, acting upon the advice of the Governors of Irkutsk and Amur, have decided to keep their prisoners in large convict houses instead of sending them to Siberia. By this new method Russian prisoners will not have quite so romantic a fate as formerly. But their lot will be just as hard.

—The names of London public houses are often noticed for their singularity. Some of the names are very popular. There are fifty-three "Crown," forty-seven "White Horse," sixty-four "King's Arms," fifty-three "Red Lions," and numerous "Coach and Horses," "Rising Sun," "King's Head," and other quaint titles, like "Noah's Ark," "Rose and Crown," "Star and Garter," "Ship," and "Grapes."

—John Ruskin has given his great diamond and superb ruby to the British Natural History Museum on condition that the labels that accompany them be always retained. The inscription for the diamond is this: "The Colenso Diamond, presented by John Ruskin in honor of his friend, the loyal and patiently admiring First Bishop of Natal." The ruby is thus described: "The Edwardes Ruby, presented by John Ruskin in honor of the invincible soldiery and loving equity of Sir Herbert Edwardes' rule by the shores of the Indus."

## MODERN EXPLOSIVES.

An Account of the More Important Substances Now in Use.

Few would imagine, as they watch the coal quietly glow and consume away in the grate, that there are present all the materials necessary for producing an explosion; yet such is the case, and it has been found that the ignition of coal-dust laden air is a not infrequent source of disastrous explosions in coal mines.

What has occurred with coal may occur with any combustible solid which is finely pulverized and suspended in air, and in this manner the explosions of flour which destroyed several flour mills in Minneapolis in 1878 are accounted for. The explosions of sawdust in the Pullman car shops and at Geldowsky's furniture factory, the explosions of starch in a New York candy factory, of rice in rice-mills, and of dust in breweries and spice-mills, are among the many examples of the action of a similar cause; but perhaps the most unusual case of this class of explosions was that of finely-powdered zinc, which occurred in 1854 at the Bethlehem Zinc Works.

The modern high explosives are bodies which contain within their molecules the elements necessary for ordinary combustion, while at the same time they are more or less endothermic; and the best example, and perhaps the most important of these is the mercury fulminate. This substance was discovered by Howard in 1800 and was made by dissolving mercury in strong nitric acid, and pouring the solution into alcohol. Its discovery aroused the liveliest interest, and it was immediately tested by firing in a musket, but, though it imparted very little velocity to the projectile, and produced only a slight recoil and report, it burst the barrel of the piece completely open; and hence it was relegated to the position of a chemical curiosity until recalled for use as a priming for percussion caps.

Its adaptation to modern uses began in 1863, when Nobel discovered that by the explosion of a few grains of this substance nitro-glycerine might be detonated, and was extended in 1868, when Mr. E. O. Brown discov-

ered that not only could dry gun-cotton be detonated by this means, but that if a small initial mass of dry gun-cotton was detonated in contact with a mass of wet gun-cotton, the latter would be also detonated, even though it were completely saturated with water.

Baron von Lenk, of Austria, took up the study of this material in 1853, and his efforts to perfect the methods of manufacture and to moderate the violence of the gun charges were attended with such apparent success that a special battery of twelve-pounders was constructed for use with it, and the position of the explosive seemed assured, until 1855, when his magazines blew up spontaneously, and the article was interdicted by the government.

Gun-cotton constitutes the best military explosive known, for, while its explosive force vastly exceeds that of gunpowder and approaches that of nitro-glycerine, it is the safest and most stable explosive we possess, since it can be stored and transported wet; and, while in this state, though it may be detonated as described above, it can not be exploded in any other way. As much as 2,000 pounds of wet compressed gun-cotton have been placed in a fierce bonfire, where it has gradually dried, layer by layer, and been consumed without exploding. Besides, gun-cotton is the only military explosive which can be detonated with certainty when frozen. In calling it a military explosive, I mean, of course, for use in torpedoes and for military mining, and not as a substitute for gunpowder in guns; but it may be, and has been, successfully used as a charge for shells fired from gunpowder guns, both in this country and abroad. Shells containing as much as one hundred and ten pounds of gun-cotton have been repeatedly fired in Germany.

The most prominent rival of gun-cotton for military uses, and the best explosive for industrial purposes, is nitro-glycerine and the mixtures of which it forms a part. This substance was discovered by Sobrero in 1847, while carrying out a series of experiments under P. L. J. Its liquid form makes it difficult to store and transport, and permits it to find its way into unexpected places, where it constitutes a source of danger. Considerations such as these led Nobel, about 1867, to invent dynamite. The name is now applied to a great variety of nitro-glycerine mixtures, but they all consist of a porous solid absorbent which sucks up the liquid nitro-glycerine by capillarity and holds it in its pores or interstices.

The most important nitro-glycerine mixture is explosive gelatine, also invented by Nobel. This is made by heating nitro-glycerine on a water bath and adding to it from seven to ten per cent. of soluble gum-cotton. The largest single charges ever fired were employed in the blowing up of Hallett's Reef and Flood Rock. In the latter, which occurred October 10, 1885, the charge consisted of 240,399 pounds of rack-rock and 48,537 pounds of dynamite No. 1, yet so nicely was this enormous charge calculated for the work it was to do, that beyond breaking down the rock, tossing up an enormous body of water to a height (estimated for the tallest jet) of 150 feet, and generating an earthquake wave which was observed as far east as Cambridge, Mass., it produced no visible effect. —Scribner's Magazine.

## BOTH WERE SHOCKED.

Gray-whiskered Jokes Made Amusing Only by Their Antiquity.

Mrs. Shamm to Mrs. Gall—We really can't make up our minds as to where we will go this summer. Mr. Shamm would like to have the girls and I go abroad, but I tell him I won't hear of it unless he can go with us, and he says he is really too busy to go this year, although he might run over for a week or two and come home with us.

Mrs. Gall to Mrs. Shamm—We have talked a great deal about doing Europe this summer, and at one time had quite made up our minds to go, but so many of our friends are going to Bar Harbor, and they are so persistent in their entreaties for us to go with them, that we have almost allowed ourselves to be persuaded into giving up Europe for this Newport and Bar Harbor. We will, however, run over to Paris for the last of the season. I rather think we shall.

Mrs. Shamm—How nice if we could arrange to all come home together!

Mrs. Gall—Oh, that would be lovely! We really must try to arrange it that way.

Mrs. Shamm to Mr. Shamm—Mrs. Gall was here to-day, and of all the airs a woman ever put on she put on the most. Talked about "doing Europe" and spending the summer at Bar Harbor. I could hardly keep my face straight. Europe, indeed! As if I didn't know they were going to do as they always do—stay right here in the city all summer excepting for a few weeks in August, when they'll go a few miles into the country to a forty-ninth cousin of Mr. Gall's where they get their board for nothing. That's just what they'll do!

Mrs. Gall to Mr. Gall—I called at Mrs. Shamm's to-day and the assurance of that woman grows greater every day. She had the face to sit and tell me that they expected to "go abroad" this summer and that Mr. Shamm would likely "run over" and come home with them. I looked at the woman in blank amazement. It happened to know that they're all going to a dead little old town up in New Hampshire that nobody ever heard of, and that the man they are going to stay with intends taking his pay in things out of Shamm's store. I don't see how some people can have the face to talk as they do! —Detroit Free Press.

—Danbury, Conn., thinks that it has something valuable in the Indian arrow and spearhead quarry recently discovered near there. Over one hundred heads in perfect preservation have been found, and apparently there are hundreds more.

## HOME AND FARM.

—In cooking spinach and other greens, use only water enough to keep them from burning; in fact, they should be cooked slowly in their own juices.

—A good disinfectant is made by dissolving half a drachm of nitrate of lead in a pint of boiling water, then dissolve two drachms of common salt in eight or ten quarts of water.

—Strawberry Preserves: Allow three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit. Let the sugar simmer twenty minutes, adding, perhaps, a tablespoonful of water to start it; then add the strawberries; let them come to a boil; cover and move back to steam five minutes. Put them in glass jars while still scalding hot, and seal them hermetically.

—A mother once said she wanted to make her boys feel that home was the pleasantest place on earth, and she took care to interest her sons early in fruits and flowers, and instructed them in the growth and development of all forms of plant-life. Next to the warm, paternal affection, she deems the influence of flowers and fruits as the most potent agencies in making a pleasant home.

—A good soap for whitening and smoothing the hands may be made of all the waste ends of toilet soap accumulated in the different rooms of the house. They should be put in a tin vessel, set on the stove, and allowed to simmer until thoroughly melted; then there should be stirred in it enough finely-powdered pumice stone to give it a grayish color. When cool, it should be made into balls.

—Salmon Croquettes: Boil half a pint of milk, thicken with a tablespoonful of flour, and let it become cool. Mince a pound of salmon or one pound of fresh salmon. When very fine add a saltspoonful of white pepper. Moisten the minced salmon with the boiled milk, work to a paste, and add bread crumbs if too thin. When wanted, shape into cakes, rolls or cones, dip in egg and crumbs, and fry in hot fat.

—Collars should be kept continually clean, pure, and with healthy air, and not be allowed to become dirty, to be cleaned at stated times. The house-keeper should therefore endeavor to prevent any foreign or impure matter from getting possessed, the daily labor of which would be small, but a month's accumulation would be large.

—Fritters furnish one of the choicest ways to cook parsnips. After scraping and cutting them, if they are large, boil until tender in salted boiling water; then mash them and add, for four or five parsnips, a large teaspoonful of flour, an egg or two well beaten, and salt and pepper. Mold into small cakes about three-fourths of an inch thick, and fry in a little butter to a pale brown, turning them to color both sides. Serve very hot.

## STABLE MANAGEMENT.

How to Care for Horses During the Working Season.

Pure air is as essential to the blood as sound food is to the sustenance of the body. Consumed air is vitiated air; the volume of oxygen is reduced; carbonic acid is in excess. The stable is full of organic impurities, given off by the skin and the lungs. Ventilation is found in all well-regulated stables, and draughts are unknown, or ought to be.

Good grooming is demanded under stable management, and in fast work. The brush, as a rule, should follow the direction of the hair, except when dirt and sweat are caked onto the coat, then you require to go against the lie of the coat—the set of the coat. Good grooming shortens the coat, gives a gloss and develops physical force.

Horses fed largely on other foods demand less hay, but hay is useful in distending the stomach and thus assisting digestion. From six to fourteen pounds daily; the average use is ten pounds in many stables. To maintain hunting and racing condition oil hay is essential.

Clover, vetches and trifolium are laxative and cooling, and excellent for the invalid horse or the youngster. They should be given sparingly at the early part of the season. Green forage should never be given to horses in fast work, except on Saturday nights.

The horse may be trusted to gauge his thirst except on occasions of extreme exertion. That horses are the better for being watered before being fed is an admitted fact with all veterinary surgeons. Colic and gripes are thus avoided. The explanation given is this: When the stomach is full, water passing rapidly through the stomach, on the way is very apt to carry with it into the small intestines undigested corn, and this produces local irritation. There is less danger in watering a horse actively warm than when the system is somewhat lowered. Soft water is better for all ails, and on no account let horses drink dirty water. It is most objectionable. —St. Louis Republic.

The Cerebrum in the Dog.

In his last contribution to the physiology of the brain, the eminent physiologist at Strasburg, Prof. Goltz, gives an account of a dog from which one entire cerebral hemisphere had been removed. Here there was not, as some physiologists would expect, a paralysis and an anesthesia on the side opposite the injured organ; but, on the contrary, the dog was normal, only that he preferred the side controlled by the intact hemisphere. This goes to show that in the dog one hemisphere can to a large extent perform the functions for the entire body. As a converse proof, if symmetrical regions are removed from both halves of the brain, the result is a much more serious one. An animal lacking both its frontal lobes had its intelligence much diminished, was restless, constantly moaning, could not feed itself, could not hold a bone, and was a decidedly abnormal dog. A dog with both its occipital lobes gone showed marked sensory defects, but behaves much more normally than the former dog, thus indicating that the part removed is of vital importance. —Science.

## SHORT STATISTICS.

ENGLAND is said to have one cow to eight and a half persons. France one cow to three and one-third, and America one cow to two and two-thirds persons. America is ahead of the cow.

What a breaking of shackles from human limbs has taken place in the last twenty-seven years! In that time Russia has freed 23,000,000; Poland, 5,000,000; United States, 4,000,000; and Brazil, 2,000,000.

Figures are given which go to show that the quantity of tobacco consumed in the different countries of Europe. The rate per 100 inhabitants is, according to him, as follows: Spain, 10 pounds; Italy, 10 pounds; Great Britain, 138 pounds; Russia, 152 pounds; Denmark, 244 pounds; Norway, 229 pounds; Austria, 373 pounds.

The average watch is composed of 175 different pieces, comprising upward of 2,400 separate and distinct operations in its manufacture. The balance has 18,000 beats or vibrations per hour, 12,500,000 in thirty days, 15,768,000 in one year; it travels 164,100 inches with each vibration, which is equal to 9 1/2 miles in twenty-four hours, 22 1/2 miles in thirty days, or 3,588 1/2 miles in one year.

It has been estimated that there are now 80,000 salesmen on the road in this country, and that their expense account alone averages \$1,650 a year each. This means an outlay of \$132,000,000 a year, and counting an average salary of \$1,000 per year, the grand total is swelled to \$230,000,000 expended by and on traveling salesmen. The immense sum is scattered throughout the entire country, and furnishes an important item of railway and hotel profits.

Here are some curious statistics concerning the French Canadian population of Maine. In seven years it has increased 20 per cent. in Waterville and 50 per cent. in Lewiston and Auburn. But the French Canadian family is decreasing in size. In 1851 there were 22,349 families, or 111,745 persons; in 1856, 20,000 families, or 100,000 persons; in 1861, 18,000 families, or 90,000 persons; in 1866, 16,000 families, or 80,000 persons; in 1871, 14,000 families, or 70,000 persons; in 1876, 12,000 families, or 60,000 persons; in 1881, 10,000 families, or 50,000 persons; in 1886, 8,000 families, or 40,000 persons; in 1891, 6,000 families, or 30,000 persons; in 1896, 4,000 families, or 20,000 persons; in 1901, 2,000 families, or 10,000 persons.

SOME one has been compiling some statistics in regard to married life in London. His estimates are among the people of that city there are 3,000 wives who have left their husbands; 2,371 husbands who have left their wives; 4,750 divorced persons; 19,023 couples that live together in a state of incessant hostilities; 510,312 couples that are absolutely indifferent one to another; 1,050 couples that are apparently happy; 1,102 couples that are happy to a certain extent, and of couples that are really happy.

NOTES ON WRITERS.

HARRIET BECHER STOWE is the first woman admitted to the Académie des arts, of which she has just been made an honorary member.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE was a shy man. His son Julian says: "I never saw my father in the act of composition—no one ever did."

"OCTAVE THIERET," who has become known as a writer of very bright and original short stories, is Miss Alice French, of Danversport, Ia.

ANNE RIVERS, George Meredith and Robert Louis Stevenson form the literary triad now in the ascendancy. They are the popular "fads."

Recent notes to the London Times, declare that he knows nearly all of "Pickwick" by heart, and that he loves Dickens "with every bit of his heart."

MISS LOUISA M. ALCOCK realized more than \$100,000 from her literary work. Friends who assume to know say that within the last year her income was \$15,000.

MISS MINNA LIVING, the poetess of Tarrytown, N. Y., claims the proud distinction of possessing the most perfect pen in America. She wears a slipper exactly one size less than No. 1, and keeps samples on exhibition at the different newspaper offices in New York.

MR. LEWIS MORRIS' definition of poetry is this: All writing tending to noble emotion or reflection leading to some emotion having for its subject mankind or the material universe or the symptoms common to men, for the most part the vehicle of rhythmical form.

MR. RIVER HAGARD, in a moment of irritation, thus explained the Shu. "Well, there are many explanations, but perhaps the best is that women are vain. Ayesha was vain. She liked to dazzle men with her charms, and finally her vanity was the cause of her death."

THE VALE OF TEARS.

As our sojourn on earth has been lugubriously denominated, it is well enough that a few cases of enjoyment are rendered barren by ill health. Nervous, debilitated invalids, like Hostetter's Stomach and Bowel Regulator, find relief in the vigor that vigor gives to life. If you would cease to take a gloomy view of it, and cultivate acquaintance with its bright side, stimulate digestion, arouse the liver, regulate the bowels with this superb tonic and alterative. Cures fever and ague and kidney troubles.

It is "touch and go" with people who incautiously handle electric light wires. Boston Commercial Bulletin.

THE MARKETS.

CATTLE—Native Steers, June 11, 1888. 4 1/2 @ 5 1/2  
COTTON—Middling, 10 @ 10 1/4  
WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 92 @ 93 1/2  
CORN—No. 2, 60 @ 61  
RYE—No. 2, 58 @ 59  
PORK—Mess (new), 15 1/2 @ 15 3/4

COTTON—Middling, 9 1/2 @ 9 3/4  
BEEVES—Good to Choice, 5 00 @ 5 25  
HOGS—Common to Select, 4 75 @ 5 00  
SHEEP—Fair to Choice, 3 50 @ 4 00  
FLOUR—Superior, 4 40 @ 4 50  
WHEAT—No. 2 Spring, 84 1/2 @ 85 1/2  
CORN—No. 2, 60 @ 61  
OATS—No. 2, 32 @ 33  
LARD—Prime Steam, 22 @ 23  
WOOL—Fair to Choice, 32 @ 34

CATTLE—Shipping Steers, 3 25 @ 3 50  
HOGS—Good to Choice, 4 00 @ 4 50  
SHEEP—Good to Choice, 3 00 @ 3 50  
FLOUR—Water, 2 75 @ 3 00  
WHEAT—No. 2 Spring, 84 1/2 @ 85 1/2  
CORN—No. 2, 60 @ 61  
OATS—No. 2, 32 @ 33  
LARD—Prime Steam, 22 @ 23  
WOOL—Fair to Choice, 32 @ 34

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the only medicine for women's peculiar ailments, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee, from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded, is Dr. PIERCE'S FAVORITE PRESCRIPTION. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrappers, and faithfully carried out for many years.

THE OUTGROWTH OF A VAST EXPERIENCE.

The treatment of many thousands of cases of those chronic weaknesses and distressing ailments peculiar to females, at the LITTLE HILL AND SURGICAL INSTITUTE, Buffalo, N. Y., has afforded a vast experience in nicely adapting and thoroughly testing remedies for the cure of woman's peculiar ailments.

A BOON TO WOMEN.

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A SOOTHING NERVE.

As a soothing and strengthening "nerve," "Favorite Prescription" is undoubtedly the most valuable medicine in allaying and removing nervous excitability, irritability, exhaustion, prostration, hysteria, spasms and other distressing symptoms common to females, and upon functional and organic disease of the system. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and depression.

A POWERFUL TONIC.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a legitimate medicine, compounded by an experienced and skillful physician, and adapted to woman's delicate organization. It is purely vegetable in its composition and perfectly harmless in its effects in any condition of the system.

A MOTHE'S CORDIAL.

In pregnancy, "Favorite Prescription" is a "mother's cordial," relieving nausea, weakness of stomach, and other distressing symptoms common to that condition. If its use is kept up in the latter months of gestation, it so prepares the system for delivery as to greatly lessen, and many times entirely do away with the sufferings of that trying ordeal.

FOR THE KIDNEYS.

"Favorite Prescription" is a positive cure for the most complicated and obstinate cases of "catarrh of the bladder," "leucorrhea," "gonorrhea," "excessive flow of monthly periods, painful menstruation, chronic suppression, prolapsus or falling of the womb, weak back, female weakness, anemization, prostration, bearing-down sensations, chronic congestion, inflammation, and irritation of the womb, inflammation, pain and tenderness in ovaries, accompanied with internal heat."

FOR THE LIVER.

"Favorite Prescription" when taken in connection with Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and small laxative doses of Dr. Pierce's Purgative, cures Liver, Kidney and Bladder diseases. Their combined use also removes blood poisons, and abolishes cancerous and scrofulous humors from the system.

TREATING THE WRONG DISEASE.

Many times women call on their family physicians, suffering, as they imagine, one from heart disease, another from liver or kidney disease, another from nervous exhaustion, or prostration, another with pain here or there, and in this way they all present alike to the physician, and their respective cases, and they are all treated alike, and the result is, that they all get worse, and the physician, ignorant of the cause of the disease, and not knowing how to cure it, finally gives up, and the patient gets no better, but probably worse by reason of the delay, wrong treatment and consequent complications. The suffering woman, in this condition, is in a desperate state, and the physician, ignorant of the cause of the disease, and not knowing how to cure it, finally gives up, and the patient gets no better, but probably worse by reason of the delay, wrong treatment and consequent complications. 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